

We claim:

1 1. A micro mirror comprising:

2 a mirror plate;

3 a spacer support frame;

4 a hinge connected to the spacer support frame and the mirror plate for allowing the
5 mirror plate to rotate relative to the spacer support frame about an axis defined
6 by the hinge; and

7 wherein each of the mirror plate, the spacer support frame, and the hinge are
8 fabricated from a single continuous piece of material.

1 2. The micro mirror of claim 1, wherein the material is single crystal silicon.

1 3. The micro mirror of claim 1, wherein the hinge is a vertically oriented torsion spring.

1 4. The micro mirror of claim 1, wherein the mirror plate has a reflective top surface.

1 5. The micro mirror of claim 1, further comprising a reflective layer on top of the plate.

1 6. The micro mirror of claim 1, wherein the spacer support frame includes walls, the
2 walls having a thickness of about 1 micron or less.

1 7. The micro mirror of claim 1, further comprising a mechanical stop for stopping
2 rotation of the mirror plate relative to the spacer frame when the mirror plate has rotated to a
3 predetermined angle.

1 8. An array of a plurality of micro mirrors, comprising:

2 a spacer support frame with walls defining a plurality of cavities, each cavity
3 corresponding to a micro mirror;

4 a plurality of mirror plates;

5 a plurality of hinges, each hinge connected to at least one wall of the spacer support
6 frame and connected to a mirror plate of the plurality of mirror plates for

7 allowing that mirror plate to rotate relative to the spacer support frame about
8 an axis defined by the hinge; and
9 wherein the spacer support frame, the plurality of mirror plates, and the plurality of
10 hinges are fabricated from a single continuous piece of material.

1 9. The array of claim 8, wherein the mirror plates each have an upper surface.

1 10. The array of claim 9, wherein the upper surfaces of the mirror plates are polished to
2 reflect light.

1 11. The array of claim 9, wherein a reflective layer is deposited on each upper surface of
2 the mirror plates for reflecting light.

1 12. The array of claim 8, further comprising a control substrate connected to the spacer
2 support frame and having at least one electrode corresponding to each of the plurality of mirror
3 plates for receiving a voltage to controllably deflect the mirror plate of the micro mirror.

1 13. The array of claim 12, wherein the hinge divides the mirror plate into a first part and
2 a second part, such that when the first part of the mirror plate moves toward the control substrate
3 as the mirror plate rotates about the axis defined by the hinge, the second part of the mirror plate
4 moves away from the control substrate.

1 14. The array of claim 12, wherein the control substrate further comprises addressing and
2 control circuitry for selectively applying voltages to the plurality of electrodes to selectively
3 controllably deflect the mirror plates in the array.

1 15. The array of claim 8, wherein the surfaces of the plates in the mirror array make up
2 at least 85% of the surface area of the array.

1 16. The array of claim 8, wherein the surfaces of the plates in the mirror array make up
2 at least 90% of the surface area of the array.

1 17. An array of a plurality of micro-mirrors, comprising:
2 for each micro mirror in the array, at least one mirror plate with an upper surface;
3 for each micro mirror in the array, at least one hinge connected to the at least one
4 mirror plate of that micro mirror for allowing that mirror plate to rotate;
5 a support frame with a plurality of support walls, each hinge connected to at least one
6 support wall, for supporting the hinge and the mirror plate and separating each
7 mirror plate from a second substrate connected to the support frame; and
8 wherein the mirror plates and the hinges are fabricated from a single continuous piece
9 of material.

1 18. The array of claim 17, wherein there is a gap of 0.2 microns or less between an edge
2 of the upper surface of the mirror plate and a support wall of the support frame.

1 19. The array of claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the mirror plates are
2 substantially rectangular in shape.

1 20. The array of claim 19, wherein the upper surfaces of the mirror plates have an area of
2 approximately 225 square microns.
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